

Please see the following message from ISBE's Nutrition Department

March 25, 2020

For institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) that are closed or allowed to operate as an emergency site due to COVID-19, here are the following options based on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance:

Child Care Centers Allowed to Operate

Effective March 21, 2020, Gov. J.B. Pritzker mandated the closures for all child care centers licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and early education programs across the state. Please review the following link for additional information: [Guidance for Child Care Centers, Child Care Homes, and Early Education Programs](#). Effective March 21, emergency child care sites and child care centers that are legally license-exempt will be the only child care centers legally allowed to operate during the COVID-19 State of Emergency in CACFP. Emergency Child Care Centers may be located in: schools; community-based organizations such as churches and social services organizations; for-profit or non-profit child care centers; or health care facilities or other workplaces for essential workers.

- Emergency Child Care Centers will need to be approved for an emergency license to participate in the CACFP. Center would continue to operate following all CACFP requirements for proving meals and claiming reimbursement. Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) staff will assist with the process of temporarily operating as an Emergency Child Care Center in CACFP. Email us at cnp@isbe.net to get started.
- Legally license-exempt centers would need only to notify ISBE staff by email at cnp@isbe.net to continue to participate or to apply to participate in CACFP.

Child Care Centers that are Closed

The USDA issued a COVID19 NonCongregate Nationwide Waiver to waive the congregated feeding requirement in CACFP for outside school hour/afterschool at-risk programs and a COVID19 Afterschool Activity Nationwide waiver to waive the education and enrichment activity for afterschool at risk program, which will provide flexibility to distribute meals in affected communities. Guidance for closed centers is provide below.

- At-Risk school sites can choose to serve non-congregate meals to children through CACFP. To apply, contact ISBE staff at cnp@isbe.net and staff will help you complete a short form. Please note as per the USDA, the state agency may not approve waiver requests that would duplicate coverage. If the site remains closed, please work with your local school district to see if your children can receive meals at the school.
- Non-profit CACFP sponsors may choose to serve non-congregate meals to children through [SFSP](#). CACFP sponsors will need to follow SFSP regulations. To apply, contact

ISBE staff at cnp@isbe.net and staff will help you complete a short form. Please note as per the USDA, the state agency may not approve waiver requests that would duplicate coverage. If the site remains closed, please work with your local school district to see if your children can receive meals at the school.

- As per USDA regulations, for-profit sponsors are not able to transition to [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP). Please work with your local school district to see if your children can receive meals at the school.